

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 150912 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7407

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

USIA WASHDC

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 7189

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID

SUBJECT: MALIK ON CHINA

SUMMARY: UNDER INTENSE QUESTIONING AT JUNE 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, MALIK REPEATED HIS STANDARD LINE ON CHINA - THAT RELATIONS WILL BE RESUMED WHEN INDONESIA COMPLETES PREPARATIONS WHICH ARE NOW UNDERWAY; THAT INITIATIVE WILL HAVE TO BE INDONESIA'S, AND THAT TIMING CANNOT YET BE SPECIFIED. END SUMMARY.

1. AT JUNE 14 NEWS CONFERENCE LOCAL PRESS BOMBARDED FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK WITH QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA. REPORTERS' INTEREST AROUSED PARTLY BECAUSE THEY KNOW MALIK WAS IN HONG KONG IN COURSE OF RECENT TRIP TO KOREA AND THINK PURPOSE OF STOPOVER MAY HAVE BEEN CHINA (ACTUALLY HE WAS ATTENDING THREE- POWER SULU NEGOTIATIONS.)

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2. RESULT HAS BEEN RASH OF STORIES IN JUNE 15 PAPERS ACCORDING TO WHICH MALIK REPEATED STANDARD LINE ON NORMALIZATION BUT SOUNDED MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN USUAL. AS INTERPRETED BY GOI NEWS AGENCY ANTARA, MALIK SAID INDONESIA IS COMPLETING PREPARATIONS FOR RESTORATION OF RELATIONS, BUT REFUSED TO BE PINNED DOWN ON HOW LONG THIS WOULD TAKE. JAKARTA WOULD SERVE NOTICE TO PEKING, HE SAID, AS WAS AGREED UPON DURING HIS TALKS WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG FEI AT TWELVE-NATION PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM IN FEBRUARY. ACCORDING TO ARMY DAILY BERITA YUDHA MALIK SAID THE DOOR (TO NORMALIZATION) IS NO LONGER BARRED: IT IS UP TO US TO OPEN IT (THIS NOT DIRECT QUITE.) AS HE HAS DONE BEFORE, MALIK PICTURED THE CHINESE AS EAGER FOR RESUMPTION - THEY ARE JUST " WAITING FOR THEIR LOVER," HE SAID ACCORDING TO DAILY MERDEKA. MALIK WAS SUCCESSFULLY EVASIVE ON REAL REASONS FOR HIS VISIT TO HONG KONG.

3. MALIK WAS VAGUE ON NATURE OF " PREPARATIONS" INDONESIA IS MAKING FOR NORMALIZATION BUT ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT DAILY INDONESIA RAYA HE SAID OVERSEAS CHINESE ARE NO LONGER A PROBLEM, AND JOSHINGLY ADDED THAT HE WAS " SHOCKED" AT RECENT ASSERTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL ALI SAID (REFTEL) THAT 15,000 ILLEGAL CHINESE IMMIGRANTS IN INDONESIA CONSTITUTE A SUBVERSIVE THREAT. THE NUMBER MIGHT BE 1,500 OR MAYBE EVEN 15 MALIK QUIPPED (ACCORDING RAYA.) GALBRAITH

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